

LOCAL NEWS

Miles Riley was calling on Ontario friends Tuesday.

Lost bunch of keys. Return to Paul Campbell and receive reward. Miss Sadie Fishbeck was visiting with her relatives at Emmett over Sunday.

Will Butler and Harry Farmer are in the interior rounding up some sheep.

Henry Eldridge shipped a car of hogs and cattle to the Portland market on Monday.

The S and C club will meet with Mrs. Irene Aker on Thursday afternoon the 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Dearmond and Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell were down from the ranch above Vale on Tuesday.

Five cars of the Fred Palmer sheep were shipped to Filer, Idaho, Tuesday by J. L. Davis, to be fed this winter.

On Monday the banks were closed in commemoration of the discovery of America some 400 years ago, by Columbus.

Mrs. M. McKim and children of Baker, are visiting with their cousins, Mrs. Vern Chambers and Mrs. H. L. Holcomb.

I. P. Taylor, of Boise, who was visiting with his brother, S. F. Taylor, returned to his home in Boise on Tuesday.

Bob Ivers was here Saturday on his way home to Watson. He recently sold all his sheep so he could be closer to home on account of his wife's poor health.

Baker Ball brought in a fine lot of cattle the last of last week and shipped twelve cars out. They were reported very choice.

J. D. Billingsley and Hower Rambo are out after a lot of sheep they have bought from a number of the sheep men in the interior. They expect to feed here this winter.

R. F. Farmer, the Nyssa candidate for county surveyor, was here Saturday shaking hands with some of the voters. Mr. Farmer is thoroughly capable of holding the office, having had many years experience as an engineer and surveyor. He is careful in his work and very obliging.

Ol Nicely came home Saturday morning with a mess of trout that would be hard to beat. There was a goodly number of them and they were quite large, some weighing up to 4½ pounds. Ol's friends enjoyed the fish very much. It is safe to say that it was the finest catch ever brought to Ontario.

W. P. Davidson, of St. Paul and the Oregon and Western Colonization Company, was here the first of the week with a large party of land seekers and went to Burns with them. Mr. Davidson says while there is no war in this country, still there is much evidence of the European war in financial circles.

E. H. Bailey, of St. Paul, is visiting with his son Fred Bailey for a short time. Mr. Bailey is president of the First National Bank of St. Paul, an institution with deposits over twenty million dollars, and the leading financial institution of the Twin Cities. Later Mr. Bailey will take a hunt or ducks in Malheur county with W. P. Davidson.

The record yield of potatoes in this section this year will probably go to H. C. Andersen. Mr. Andersen's crop, on a tract of a little less than 4½ acres, amounted to 675 sacks of potatoes, each sack weighing 125 pounds. This makes an average of about 300 bushels to the acre. The potatoes are all of a fine quality and should find a ready market.—Parma Herald.

FROM THE CENSUS REPORTS

The United States Census Department at Washington has just issued a bulletin dealing with the ownership of Malheur county homes. The important facts contained in the bulletin relative to this county are as follows:

There are 1911 homes in Malheur county.

Of this number 798 are farm homes. 441 of the farm homes are owned by their occupants and are free of mortgage incumbrance.

The mortgaged farm homes number 237.

Renters occupy 90 farm homes in this county.

Out of a total of 1911 homes in the county 1113 are urban homes.

There are 462 urban home owners in the county.

Of this number 50 are mortgaged.

377 of the urban owned homes are free of incumbrance.

There are 368 rented urban homes in the county.

The census enumerators were unable to secure data pertaining to ownership of a small percentage of both the rural and urban homes in this county.

INDISPUTABLE PROOF

Continued from Page 1.

Who Owns the County Seat?

Question. Does the county seat belong to any particular town?

Answer. Certainly not. It is the property of the citizens and taxpayers of the county. They have a right to locate it wherever it is the most convenient for them and no town has a right to complain if this is done. As such moves usually create considerable friction and disturbance in a county, the law has provided that a genuine demand for the removal must exist before such a removal can be had. This is accomplished by providing that it shall take a sixty per cent vote to obtain such removal. It is only fair and just that the citizens of a county should have a right to change the location of their county seat when sixty per cent or more of their number desire such change.

Why in Ontario?

Question. Why is Ontario a better location for the county seat than Vale?

Answer. There are many reasons. In the first place it is better situated, being on the main line of the railroad. It has three large and modern hotels and numerous private boarding houses and restaurants. People desiring to attend to county business will find better accommodations at Ontario than at Vale.

Two out of every three persons having county business to transact are now compelled to pass through Ontario and on to Vale. There is a better and less expensive service by telephone from Ontario than there is from Vale. Ontario is the largest city in the county and growing all the time. County property in Ontario would constantly increase in value; whereas in Vale its value is continually decreasing. We have a better point for trading purposes than Vale. People coming to court nearly always come to Ontario to trade and for other business. It would be cheaper for them to attend to both at the same time and in the same place.

Is it Bribery?

Question. If a town offers to donate a court house and grounds to a county as a consideration for the location of a county seat at that town, does such an offer constitute bribery or corruption?

Answer. No. Because the offer is made to the entire public and does not influence any one elector more than another. The Corrupt Practice act of Oregon, among other things, makes it an offence to offer to an Elector to induce him to vote for or to refrain from voting for any measure submitted to the people. If any individual elector was to be offered ten dollars to vote for Ontario for the county seat that would be bribery and corruption. It would be a benefit flowing to that elector to influence his vote and would not benefit the public or the other electors at large. But to offer a court house to the county benefits all alike, and does not influence one more than any other in the county. The Supreme Courts in many states in the Union have passed on this question. The very great weight of legal authority is to the effect that an offer of a court house and grounds to the county as a consideration for a location of a county seat does not amount to bribery or corruption. This conclusion has been reached by the highest courts in the states of Montana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, Texas, Kentucky and many other states.

Present Vault too Small.

Question. Is the Court House and vaults at Vale large enough for the needs of the county at the present time?

Answer. No. The vault is very small and is now full and crowded with records. The taxroll and many of the other records are left out in the open offices because there is not room for them in the vault. Such records might easily be destroyed if the building should take fire. The treasurer has his office in the same room as the sheriff, and in many other ways the building is too small.

An Expensive Lawn.

Question. How much money has the lawn and trees at the court house at Vale cost the taxpayer of the county?

Answer. The newspaper in that city claims that it took ten years time and much expense to grow the lawn and trees, it is safe to say that it has cost \$5000.00. With proper soil the same results could be produced in a single season, and at a trifling expense. Money has paid for wells and gas engine pumping plants.

Vale Wants You to Build \$200,000 House

Question. If the taxpayers do not accept Ontario's offer to donate a court house to the county, how long will it be before they will have to pay for one?

Answer. Probably some one or two years, or as soon as the citizens of Vale think the opportunity is ripe. They insist that a suitable Court house can not be built for less than \$150,000 to \$200,000. Hence when the time comes the taxpayers of the county can be certain that Vale will attempt to inflict a building of that cost upon them.

How Long Will it Last?

Question. How long will the court house which Ontario proposes to donate be sufficient to accommodate the business of the County.

Answer. The proposed building is very substantial, and is thoroughly modern and convenient in every respect. It has about twice the floor space of the present court house, and several times as much vault room and storage space. Large and commodious offices are provided for each county official. The building will be sufficient for all the needs of the county for the next forty years.

Not Charity, But Business.

Question. Is a town so small and weak that its very existence depends entirely upon the location of the county seat therein, a suitable place for a county seat?

Answer. No. In such a town the value of the county property is continually decreasing instead of increasing. There is no tendency to build up suitable and proper accommodations in such a town for the benefit of the public having county business to transact. No town has a right to ask the taxpayers of the county to continually prop it up.

Purely a Business Proposition

Question. Is the attempt of Ontario to procure the county seat an attempt to ruin and destroy Vale, and is it morally wrong to ask the taxpayers to make the removal?

Answer. No. It is purely a matter of business competition between two cities. It is the same thing as though a new merchant should come to Vale and open up a store. To a certain extent he would absorb some of the business of the old merchants, and thereby injure them; but no one could say that he was doing anything wrong, or deny his right to build up a good business at the expense of the other merchants. The same thing would be true if another lawyer or doctor should locate in Vale and start to practice. Ontario has exactly the same right to compete for the county seat. Besides the county seat belongs to the taxpayers of the county and not to Vale or any other city. When sixty per cent, of the owners desire to remove the county seat to some other location they have both a legal and moral right to do so. Those who located in Vale and went into business there

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knew all of these things, and simply took a business risk and chance on the county seat always being located at Vale. If they failed to rightly judge the future there is no one to blame for their poor judgment; nor can they justly ask the taxpayers to leave the county seat at Vale on that account, and eventually become taxed for a \$150,000 court house to satisfy Vale's ideals of a proper court house.

It is Perfectly Legal.

Question. Does the City Charter of Ontario permit the city to erect a court house and donate the same to the public?

Answer. The city can legally do this under the powers contained in its charter. This charter was legally adopted by vote of the people of the city. Under it the city council has such powers as are directly given in the charter, and also such implied powers as are necessary to carry into effect its provisions. Section 31 of the Charter provides among other things that the Council shall have power to provide for the erection of a city jail, and any other public buildings for the use of the city or public. It not a court house a public building for the use of the public?

The Charter Provision.

Section 113, of the Charter provides: "Power and authority is hereby given to the Council and the said council is hereby authorized to borrow money on the faith of the city, to loan the credit thereof, or both, and to that end to provide for the issuance of bonds and warrants for any purpose, which, in the judgment of the council is beneficial to the interests of said city, and to designate the manner and time for the payment thereof and the interest thereon; etc."

COURAGE, DO NOT FALTER.

When luck is dead against you and everything looks black, it does no good to falter or turn upon your track; it does no good bewailing the errors you have made, or counting all the by-ways in which your feet have strayed; it does no good insisting that others were at fault, for he who blames his comrades is hardly worth his salt; and weeping never helps you, or makes the way less rough, for tears are only water, and water's washy stuff. Brace up, O weary pilgrim, brace up and be a man! Though fortune sorely swats you, do still the best you can. Dame Fortune often tests us, to see how high we stak and if she sees us weeping, or turning on the track, she sadly says: "These pilgrims are bargain-counter goods it's not worth while to show them the pathway from the woods!" So do not weep or languish when life seems void of hope, for tears are only water, and water's flimsy dope. —Walt Mason.